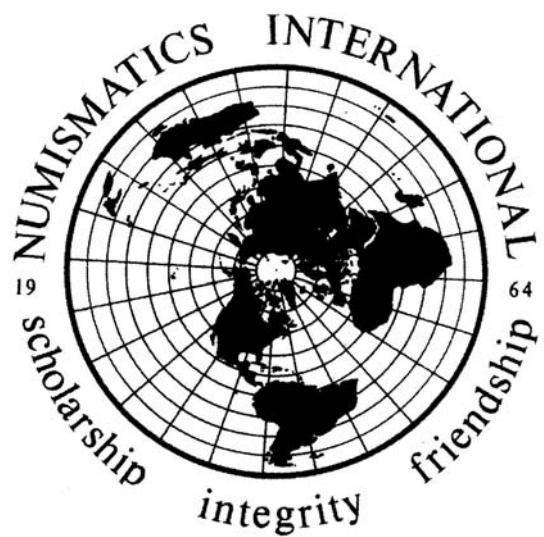


# **Numismatic International's**

## **NI Bulletin**

**Digital Reproduction**

**January 1981**



COINS CIRCULATING IN EGYPT DURING THE LAST QUARTER OF THE  
THIRD CENTURY A.D.

---

by R. B. F. Daiwe, Terneuzen, Netherlands, NI #1522

In Egypt a large number of hoards have been discovered, many of them dating from the Roman period. Since hoards can give us a good idea of the coins circulating during a certain time, one knows that in Roman Egypt coins were circulating a long time before they disappeared. The hoards of the second century and the first part of the third, generally contain a good deal of coins of about a century old (e.g. a lot of tetradrachms of Nero have been found in hoards of the mid-second-century and those of the early third century contain many tetradrachms of the Antonines). But the compositions of the hoards of the last quarter of the third century are completely different, mainly composed of coins no older than about 20 years. Because many hoards are known from that period, we thought it might be interesting to do an investigation on their composition, in order to find the reasons for that sudden change.

Since differences may exist between hoards from different localities, which is certainly the case for Egypt, where Upper-Egypt always showed more or less important differences in its currency in regard to Middle-Egypt and the Delta, we preferred to take hoards from one and the same locality. Our choice fell on those discovered in Karanis (Fayyum), from where 14 hoards date from the period interesting us here (1). Moreover, those hoards have the advantage that we are certain that nothing was changed in their compositions (2).

We have ranged those hoards into three groups: 1. Carus and sons, 2. early tetrarchy and 3. late tetrarchy (according to the presumable time of hoarding), and for reasons that will become evident later, we also divided the rulers into different groups: 1. rulers before 268 A.D., 2. Claudius II-Quintillus, 3. Aurelian-Tacitus, 4. Probus, 5. Carus and sons, and 6, the tetrarchy.

In the subjoined table (following page) the coins of the different rulers are proportionally listed for each hoard.

Although we have only two hoards of the first period and though they are rather small, we think that they reflect very well the coinage very early in the 280s. The tetradrachms of Probus formed the largest part of the currency (about 55%) and those of Claudius II were still circulating in large numbers. The high figure for Claudius II in the second hoard may have been caused by a selection of the heavier coins by the person who hoarded them.

The early tetrarchy is represented by four hoards. Two of them (nrs. 22 and 29) were at first sight doubtful because they contained a later coin of Diocletian. Their compositions are so close to the two hoards which can certainly be dated as early tetrarchy, that we are quite certain that they were formed during that period.

From the figures it is clear that the coins of group 2 almost completely

CARUS AND SONS		EARLY TETRARCHY					
KARANIS		KARANIS					
Hoard Nr.	Nr. of Coins	20	31	22	25	29	36
1. Gordianus III Gallienus Salonina	55	379	462	2168	3133	2757	
2. Claudioius II Quintillus	27,27	57,78	-	-	0,03	0,11	
Aurelianus/ Vaballathus 3. Aurelianus Severina Tacitus	- 7,27 1,81 1,81	- 9,77 0,26 2,11	- 3,03 1,95 1,95	- - - -	- 1,12 0,51 1,60	0,07 3,30 0,80 1,41	
4. Probus	56,36	27,44	45,02	44,60	44,14	30,90	
Carus 5. Carinus Numerianus	3,64 1,81 -	0,53 0,26 -	5,84 12,12 5,84	2,58 4,80 1,61	1,88 5,49 1,72	2,72 9,94 4,68	
Diocletianus 6. Maximianus Constantius I Galerius	- - -	- - -	19,91 4,33 -	29,61 15,27 -	27,58 15,90 -	33,15 12,91 -	

LATE TETRARCHY									
KARANTIS									LEIDEN
Hoard Nr.	16	18	19	21	23	24	34	35	
Nr. of Coins									
Gordianus III	931	2472	1279	617	1010	1021	2782	1418	238
1. Gallienus	-	0,11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Salonina	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Claudius II	-	-	0,23	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. Quintillus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aurelianus/ Vaballathus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3. Aurelianus Severina Tacitus	0,11 0,43	0,24 0,12	0,55 1,96	0,32 0,16	0,20 0,16	0,20 0,16	0,40 0,10	0,42 0,14	- 0,49
4. Probus	7,20	6,53	8,92	9,40	6,04	10,29	6,43	7,54	7,56
Carus	1,40	1,78	2,58	2,59	2,28	3,62	2,91	2,12	2,10
5. Carinus	6,77	6,43	5,63	7,62	6,73	8,03	7,05	6,28	5,04
Numerianus	3,54	1,13	3,36	2,59	3,96	2,74	2,66	2,05	0,84
Diocletianus	45,97	47,45	41,20	42,79	45,54	41,72	45,79	45,13	47,06
6. Maximianus	32,98	35,07	33,93	33,06	33,76	33,30	33,57	34,13	35,29
Constantius I	1,18	0,73	1,17	0,49	0,79	-	0,72	0,99	1,26
Galerius	0,32	0,40	1,64	0,81	0,59	-	0,29	0,85	0,84

disappeared from circulation by the end of the 280s, while those of group 3 were halved in number. Probus' coinage showed only a slight difference, but there is an increase of those of group 5, which can be explained by the fact that the coins of Carus and his sons Carinus and Numerianus have had the time to reach the Fayyum in fair numbers. The coins of the tetrarchy, naturally only represented by the two augusti, already represent 40% of the currency.

Mid the 290s group 3 had nearly disappeared from circulation, while the coins of Probus were strongly reduced in number. Group 5 remained about equal and the bulk of the currency was now formed by those of the tetrarchy with ca. 80%.

It is obvious from the table that the older coins were quickly disappearing from circulation, and one understands now why we have divided the coins in groups. But there is another and more important reason. Between 268 and 296 different weight reductions were performed. The first one by Aurelian in his fifth year (276/6 A.D.),<sup>6</sup> which was probably part of his currency reforms throughout the whole empire. That reduction of about 1,5 à 2 grams is obvious if one compares the weights listed by Milne (4). A second reduction happened early in Probus' fifth year (279 A.D.) reducing the weight with 0,5 grams (5).

When under Tiberius the tetradrachm was issued again in Egypt, it was decided that its value was equal to the denarius. But the Egyptian system showed however very early signs of difficulties, since the output of the bronze coinage was decreasing already from the second part of the reign of Antoninus Pius and had nearly ceased early in the third century. From Commodus' reign on, the tetradrachm was in its turn devaluated by reducing the silver content. By the time of the sole reign of Gallienus one can hardly speak of a billon coin, because the silver in it was reduced to about 0,5%. From then on, further devaluations were only possible by reducing the weight of the tetradrachm. But, since during Gallienus' reign the Roman monetary system collapsed completely, resulting in issuing the silver denominations in bronze (e.g. the antoniniani and denarii), the heavier Egyptian tetradrachm had reached a higher intrinsic value than the denarius! It is typical that the Egyptian hoards of the second half of the third century are composed of tetradrachms or antoniniani (which were allowed to circulate in Egypt since the reign of Gallienus), but rarely together in one hoard! It seems that the Egyptians kept their own coins strictly separated from the Roman ones.

What happened in Egypt after 268 A.D.? Following the large output during the last years of Gallienus, there was a large output of tetradrachms during the first two years of Claudius II. Early in Aurelian's first year the Palmyrenes occupied Egypt, but the tetradrachms issued in the names of Aurelian and Vaballathus together had probably a large output too, followed by a small one for Vaballathus' sole reign. After that Aurelian's coinage continued, but its output was much smaller than during the previous years, except for his fourth year. Then came his weight reduction in year 5. Probably it was not noticed by the population, since the coins of the previous decades showed a great tolerance concerning their weight, the lower limit being often only the half of the highest one. But we think that it caused the disappearance of the coins struck before 268 and also of part of the coins struck before that reduction, the metal being used again for the new coinage, which

was struck in large numbers. From the hoards one knows that the proportions between the coins of Aurelian's years 1-4 and 5-7 are always in favor of the coins after the reduction, as the figures of the first group rarely exceed 25% of the figures of the second one. But we may not forget that there was already a difference concerning the output of both groups! But it is quite certain that the coins bearing the portrait of Vaballathus and his mother Zenobia, were called in during Aurelian's reign, explaining the scarcity of them in the above mentioned hoards.

Under Tacitus that coinage was continued, but it is evident that it became difficult to do so in the first years of Probus. That situation finally resulted into a new reduction very early in his fifth year, the weight of the new tetradrachm being now about 2/3 of those of Claudius II. During that reign the reuse of the metal of the coins of Claudius II-Aurelian was quite certain, and maybe those of Probus' first years were already called in (6).

During the reign of Carus and his sons Carinus and Numerianus, the coinage was mainly composed of tetradrachms of Probus (about 55%), the rest being formed by those of Aurelian-Tacitus (about 15%) and Claudius II (about 25%), and only small percentages for those of the reigning emperors and the coins anterior to 268 A.D. With the first years of the tetrarchy there was again a large output of tetradrachms, and it seems that part of the metal which was necessary for it was found in the tetradrachms of Claudius II, since they nearly disappeared from circulation, and in those of Aurelian-Tacitus, reduced to about 5% of the circulating coins, and also those of Probus, being reduced with about 10%. We can also see that Aurelian's coins dated years 1-4 have nearly disappeared now, since the 5% that was left are mainly coins of the years 5-7 and of Tacitus. Coins of Carus and sons represent about 10% of the currency, which seems to be a fair proportion in regard to the coins of Probus and the tetrarchy. It is also interesting to notice that the coins of Carinus are about equal in number than those of his father and brother together, and that those of Diocletian are two times more frequent than the coins of Maximian.

By the time of the currency reform of Diocletian, the situation had changed again. The coins of Aurelian-Tacitus had almost disappeared and those of Probus being strongly reduced in number, falling from 40% to about 8%. The coins of Carus and sons remained about equal in number, but those of the tetrarchy represented 75 à 80% of the circulating coins, notwithstanding the fact that their output was reduced since Diocletian's year 7. The coinage in the name of Maximian became more frequent, now about 2/3 of that of Diocletian, but those in the names of the Caesars represented only 1,5% of the total amount.

The use of older coins as bullion for new issues was already known very early in Roman Egypt. The bronze coins of the period Augustus-Claudius were mainly struck with the bronze of the Ptolemaic coins, and for Nero's large second series of tetradrachms, those of Tiberius and Claudius have been melted down in large numbers (7). But from the Flavii onwards, there are no more evidences for such a practice, until the late third century.

The proportions found in the Karanis hoards seem to be an useful average

to identify hoards from the Fayyum region. A small hoard, which is now in the Rijkmuseum voor Oudheden in Leiden (Holland) (8), shows the same proportions. Although it is unknown where it was discovered or if it is a complete one, we think that there is a fair chance that it was found somewhere in the Fayyum area. Recently we had the opportunity to see in Belgium two hoards of tetradrachms, offered by two different dealers. The smallest one was composed of about 200 coins, and as we found a very rare tetradrachm of Diocletian in it, we were probably one of the first to look at it. The final date was Diocletian's tenth year and it contained 4 coins of Salonina, one of Aurelian, Severina and Tacitus, 15 of Probus, none of Carus and sons, all the rest being of the tetrarchy, but coins of the Caesars were missing too. The percentages for Aurelian-Tacitus, Probus and the tetrarchy are close to the proportions mentioned above, but there are also differences regarding the relatively high proportion of Salonina and the absence of Carus and sons. Maybe the hoard was found in Middle Egypt not far away from the Fayyum, if it came not from that area itself!

The second hoard was originally much larger, but an important number of coins was already sold. The final date was 294/5 A.D. (year 11 of Diocletian and year 3 of Galerius). As could be expected the bulk of it was composed of coins of the tetrarchy, but the tetradrachms of Probus were about equal in number! The oldest coin was a tetradrachm of Trebonianus Gallus and further one of Gallienus, some of Claudius II and Aurelian, four of Tacitus and five of Carus and sons. Even if the hoard was no longer complete, it is evident that its composition differs much from those from the Fayyum, specially the high percentage of the tetradrachms of Probus in a hoard of the late tetrarchy was remarkable. Its origin was probably at a greater distance from the Fayyum, maybe Upper Egypt, which might explain the high amount of older coins.

Much of what is written here is purely hypothetic. Only further investigations on other hoards of that period, and more specially those hoards of which the origin is known, may prove or disprove it.

- 
- (1) HAATVEDT, R. A. & PETERSON, E. E. *Coins from Karanis*. Ann Arbor 1964.
  - (2) From some hoards a small part of the coins was kept by the Egyptians. Their number is however insignificant.
  - (3) Tetradrachms of year 5 belonging to the old standard are dated in the normal way and those after the reduction by using the word ETOVC.
  - (4) MILNE, J. G. *Catalogue of the Alexandrian Coins*. Oxford 1933.
  - (5) We shall prove that reduction in a book that we are preparing. That proof is based on the weights of hundreds of tetradrachms of Probus.
  - (6) We know some coins of Probus overstruck on those of Aurelian, but until now we saw only such coins dated years 2 and 3 of Probus. In many hoards the proportions between the coins of years 1-4 and 5-8 of Probus are in favor of the second group, though the output of the years 2-4 was very large.
  - (7) See MILNE, J.G. "The Alexandrian Tetradrachms of Tiberius, NC 4,X, pp333-339 (1910).
  - (8) The proportions of it are mentioned in the table. For a brief description see: EVERE, J. H. *Muntvondst uit Egypte. Jaarboek voor Munt- en Penningkunde*, 55, pp62-66 (1968).

## WHY COLLECT COINS OF THE ILES ANGLO-NORMANDES?

by Wm. B. Thompson, Edmond, Oklahoma, NI #LM-22

Why indeed? I didn't even know who they were or their location. The Iles Anglo-Normandes, later called the Norman Isles, are now the Channel Islands. This may be a misnomer as one source says they are in the Gulf of St. Malo rather than the English Channel. They lie closer to France than England and are more French than English. They are part of the British Crown not because they were conquered by England, but because they helped conquer England. They do not lift their glass to toast Elizabeth II as the *Queen*.

Who ever heard of 1/52nd or 1/13th of a shilling? What is a double? How many members of the Commonwealth do not have a bust of the Monarch on their coins? Now you begin to see why I became so intrigued.

The question most often asked when I mention the Channel Islands is "who are they?", and I asked myself this same question. I usually reply that Jersey and Guernsey are the main islands and to you this may bring to mind the "Jersey" sweater and the famous Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney milch cows. Incidentally, these breeds are kept pure by a ban on the import of any cows. To answer the questions I opened with, we will go into a little more detail.

The islands were once part of the European land mass and they have been continuously inhabited since the third millennium B.C. when they were colonized by neolithic people. Jersey finally became an island during the Bronze Age. The Channel Islands lie 57 to 90 miles south of England and 9 to 30 miles west of France. About 125,000 people occupy a total of 75 square miles. In 933, the Islands were granted to the Duke of Normandy. In 1066 when William the Conqueror, then Duke of Normandy, conquered England, the Islands remained loyal to the Duke, even though the English now referred to him as William I, King of England. For this reason, the allegiance of the islanders is to Elizabeth II, Duke of Normandy (some say "Dutchess" is correct). In 1154 when France acquired the rest of Normandy, the Islands remained faithful to King John of England in return for a guarantee of continuous privileges and self-government. They remained a possession of the British Crown until June, 1940, when they became the only part of the Empire to fall to the Axis Powers during World War II. The German garrison surrendered to the British on May 9, 1945.

Politically and numismatically, the Islands are divided into two autonomous communities, known as the Bailiwick of Jersey, of which the islets of Ecrehoues and Minquiers are a part, and the Bailiwick of Guernsey, which includes Alderney, Sark, Little Sark, Herm, Brechou, Jethou, Lithou and Burhou. The Islands still preserve their Norman laws, and laws passed in Jersey and Guernsey receive the sanction of the Queen as successor to the dukes of Normandy. The Parliament in London nor the British law courts have an direct link with the Islands. The Queen is represented in each Bailiwick by a Lieutenant Governor. This system of self-government results in a political status somewhere between a Crown Colony and a Dominion. Some islands such as Sark, have a titular ruler called the Dame of Sark, but is governed by a hereditary seigneur.

For several hundred years prior to 1830, the coins used in the Islands

were similar to those of Colonial America, in that they used any coins they could find. However, France being nearer, their coins were the most abundant. There were some tokens used in the Islands prior to 1830 which are covered in books by C. J. Howlett and W. Exley, both of which are in the American Numismatic Association library. There was a Roman coin minted for Northwest Gaul and the Channel Islands in 75 to 50 B.C.

In Guernsey the states ('les etats, a deliberative assembly) asked the Privy Council several times for permission to strike their own coins. In 1813 they specifically asked if Boulton & Company could mint their coins. The Privy Council finally agreed to the coins but said they should be produced by the Royal Mint. Now remember, Normandy conquered England, not vice-versa, so, being a little stubborn, they did as they wished and in 1830 there appeared two coins, minted by Boulton & Company of Soho, Birmingham. These first two coins of Guernsey were the 1 and 4



1 Double  
Minted 1830, 1868

4 Doubles  
Minted 1830, 1858

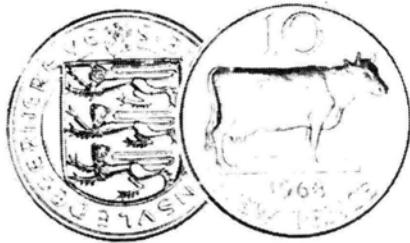
double, pronounced "dooble". This comes from the "double tournois", first known as a "liard", equal to 1/8th penny. You may note here the "French flavor" in the Guernsey coinage, and as a result, it took 21 shillings or 252 pence to make a pound. This did not change until 1921 when all the French currency was called in and the Guernsey coinage was aligned with the English (240 pence to the pound). At the same time, the official language of Guernsey became English while Jersey still uses French. After 125 years of using private mints and ignoring the wishes of the Privy Council, the Royal Mint began to make the coins of Guernsey.



10 Shilling, 1966

Only one Guernsey coin in the first 146 years portrayed the bust of the reigning Monarch. This was the 10 shilling, square, copper-nickel, two-headed coin of 1966, commemorating the 900th anniversary of the Norman Conquest. The bust of Elizabeth II is on the obverse and that of William I on the reverse.

In contrast, two coins have pictured the famous Guernsey milk cow. These were the three pence of 1956-59 and the 10 New Pence of 1968 and



10 New Pence, 1968

later. All of their coins from 1830 to 1950 were relatively plain, consisting of the Coat of Arms on one side and the date and denomination on the other. Since that time, the designs have shown some originality and are much better looking coins.

Jersey coinage was authorized in 1840 and all except 1877 to 1957 have been made by the Royal Mint. Three coins with denominations of 1/13th, 1/26th and 1/52nd of a shilling appeared in 1841 and continued for 36 years. The reason for these odd denominations was the effort to make the English and French monies interchangeable. At that time, a shilling was equal to 26 sous and the pound was equal to 26 livres. By 1876 the English coins were becoming dominant and the local tradesmen asked for the assimilation of the local coins with those of England. Copper coins of 1/48th, 1/24th and 1/12th of a shilling were



1/26th of a Shilling, 1866



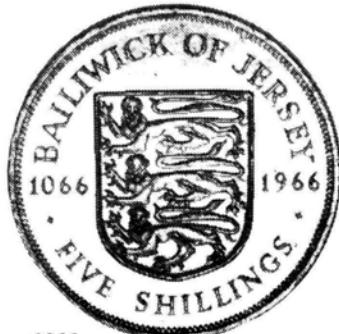
1/24th of a Shilling, 1877



issued in 1877. These were the only denominations issued until 1957 when a coin of 1/4 shilling (3 pence) came out. Jersey issued her



5 Shillings, 1966



largest coin in 1966, a 5 shilling piece commemorating the 900th anniversary of the Conquest. In 1968 Jersey joined with England and Guernsey in changing to the decimal system where 100 new pence equal the pound. All coins issued up to 1972 were very similar in that they had the bust of the British Monarch on one side and the Coat of Arms on the other with the date and denomination. Since 1972 the larger coins of the decimal series have replaced the Coat of Arms with some very nice designs.

In my study of the Channel Islands, I spent more time in libraries than I did in four years of college and I enjoyed every moment of it. I found discrepancies galore in the references which became a challenge. For example, coins of the Islands read "Bailiwick" of Jersey



One Pound, 1972

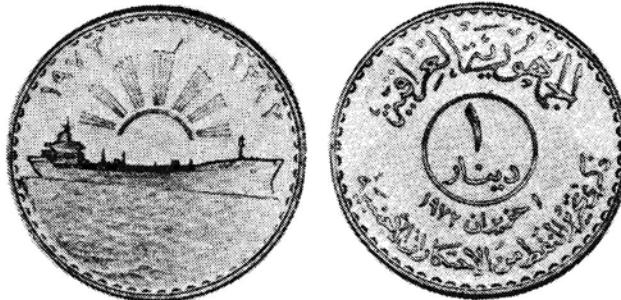
or Guernsey, yet their currency plainly says "States" of Guernsey or Jersey. So far I have not found out why, but this is the sort of problem that will make you a numismatist rather than just another coin amassor.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### WHAT DO I COMMEMORATE?

by Bill Thompson, NI #LM-22

Oil Tanker



The catalogs say I commemorate Oil Nationalization. This depends on how you look at the situation, which, just like a coin, has two sides. Iraq, who issued this 1 Dinar coin in 1973, says I commemorate the MEMORY OF OIL LIBERATION FROM FOREIGN MONOPOLY. My sources say the vessel is the supertanker Karkouk, named after a rich oil producing region in northern Iraq. More information on this ship is wanted by several NI collectors.

# Churches Depicted on German-Austrian Notgeld

by W. A. Haskell, Modautal, Germany, NI #LM15

German taste for beauty is perhaps best exemplified by the religious architecture of the churches of Austria and Germany. From the Carolingian period of the 8-10th centuries through the Baroque style of the 17th and 18th centuries, the two countries are studded with churches of fabulous beauty enriched by priceless art, and from the 12th century onward religious architecture enjoyed a great expansion as in all of Christian Europe. This religious devotion has been reflected in the notgeld issued during the post-war inflation period that followed World War I and probably is one of the most common themes found on notgeld.

One of the best known churches of Germany is the Cathedral at Cologne (Köln) (pop. 800,000) on the Rhine River, more than 600 years in the building. Begun in the year 1248 under Archbisop Konrad von Hochstaden, it was not until 1880 that it was at last ceremoniously inaugurated. The facade is particularly characteristic of the Gothic style (13-16th centuries) and famous for its great interior width, slenderness of the two towers (rising 515 feet) and the height of the pointed vaulting. The church was badly damaged by bombs and the surrounding city area devastated in World War II, but has been restored in much of its original form. It is illustrated on a number of notgeld notes issued by the city but in rather a stylized form. However, the city of Glogau in the province of Schlesien (now part of Poland) issued a more realistic series of notes depicting churches in 1922. They are denominated in 25, 50, 75 Pfennig and 1, 2 and 50 Mark; they are colored black and gold and illustrate archbishops and famous churches in Germany. The 50 Pfennig (illustrated following page) has an excellent view of the Cologne Cathedral on the reverse, flanked by churchly coats of arms and the caption: Der Dom zu Köln zur Erinnerung an das Konklave 1922 (The Cathedral at Cologne, in Remembrance of the Conclave 1922). The obverse shows the then Archbishop of Cologne, Karl Joseph Cardinal Schulte.

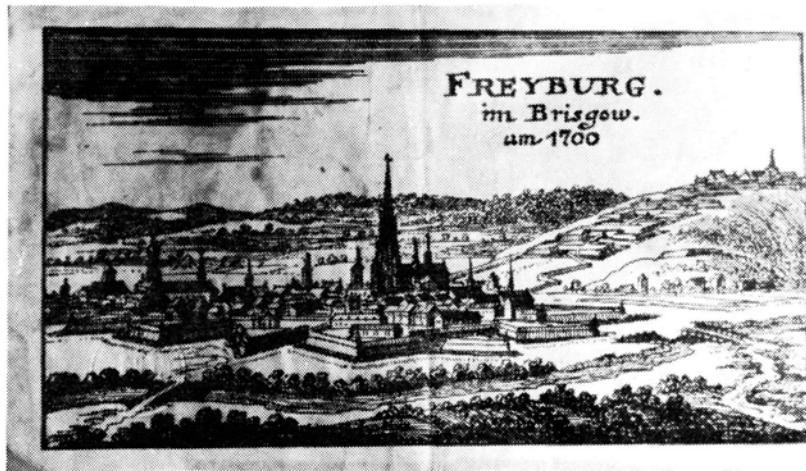
Another well known German cathedral is that in Freiburg im Breisgau (pop. 162,000), one of the loveliest cities in southern Germany. This city was also badly damaged during World War II but the cathedral has been largely restored to its former glory. Freiburg, lying on the southern edge of the renowned Black Forest, was founded in the 12th century by the Dukes of Zähringen. After the end of the



*Glogau, 50 Pfennig  
The Cathedral at Cologne*

Zähringen line which died out in the 14th century, Freiburg came under the Habsburgs of Austria (1388) for about 400 years. It was from this city on May 5, 1770, that Archduchess Marie-Antoinette, ninth child of Austrian Empress Maria Theresa, set out for France to become the bride of the future Louis XVI and meet her ultimate fate under the guillotine in 1793.

The cathedral was originally begun about 1200, and proceeded slowly, not being finally consecrated until 1513. In common with other cities and towns of Germany and Austria, Freiburg issued considerable numbers of notgeld, most of which shows the cathedral. One of the most interesting is a 500,000 Mark note issued on August 8, 1923.



*Freiburg, 100,000 Mark*

The obverse is dark green with a red serial number in the upper left corner and two embossed seals of the city coat of arms lower center and right. The reverse has a brown reproduction of an engraving of "Freyburg im Brisgow um 1700" (the old spelling) showing the city, dominated by the cathedral, as it was at that date with city fortifications intact.

A somewhat similar issue of notgeld is a series from Münster (pop. 195,000), historic capital of the province of Westfalen. The obverse shows a view of the city in 1570, with the city coat of arms prominently centered. The reverse shows in fine detail the west



Münster, 50 Pfennig

facade of the cathedral. Münster, an agricultural center and university town, is perhaps best known historically for The Peace of Westphalia, proclaimed from the cathedral on October 24, 1648 to end the devastating, bloody Thirty Years War which had depopulated Germany and turned the countryside into a desert. The city was destroyed in World War II but has been restored in much of its original style. The cathedral, begun in 1090 under Bishop Erpho, rebuilt and enlarged many times through the centuries, also suffered seriously from the war.

Another renowned church of Westfalen is the former cloister church Abdinghof in the city of Paderborn (pop. 63,000), begun in the 11th century. A series of notgeld issues from Paderborn in 1921 illustrate the west facade of the exterior on a 75 Pfennig note and an interior view shows the main altar on a 1 Mark note (illustrated on next page).

To turn to something a bit different concerning churches on notgeld,



Paderborn, 25 Pfennig



Paderborn, 1 Mark

the town of Schneidemühl in German Posen located west of the Polish city of Bromberg and now part of Poland issued an interesting series of notgeld between 1914 and 1923. Among these is a 25 Pfennig note with the city coat of arms in the center of the obverse and a view of the marketplace and church on the reverse (illustrated on next page). The color is red on gray. Schneidemühl was the site of a prisoner of war camp that also issued notgeld. A 20 Mark example is shown here; color is purple (illustrated on next page). It also had a flying school during that long ago war and in World War II it had an infantry and rocket training school for the Germany army.



*Schneidemühl, 25 Pfennig*



*Schneidemühl, 20 Mark*

The walled city of Nördlingen (pop. 15,000) on the German Romantic Road of Central Germany issued a 50 Pfennig note on October 2, 1918, showing the Gothic St. George Church located in the center of the city. The city, still completely surrounded by its defensive wall from the Middle Ages, depicts the 15th century church with a tower which rises 292 feet and is visible for miles from the surrounding countryside (illustrated on the next page).



Nördlingen, 50 Pfennig

Austrian notgeld seemingly is especially dominated by churches as a reflection of the piety and religious devotion of the population. The Benedictine Abbey in Admont (pop. 3,000) in the Province of Steirmark south of Salzburg, founded in the 11th century, depicts the world famous Abbey library on an 80 Heller note issued in November 1920.



Admont, 80 Heller

More than 1000 precious handwritten manuscripts and 100,000 volumes are preserved here, while the interior Rocco ensemble, dating from 1774, includes magnificent wood carvings by Josef Stammel (1695-1765), who revived the art of woodcarving in Austria.

Austrian and Bavarian churches, especially those in country villages, had the so-called "onion-dome" added to the tower during the 17-18th century Baroque period. This rather ugly term describes the graceful

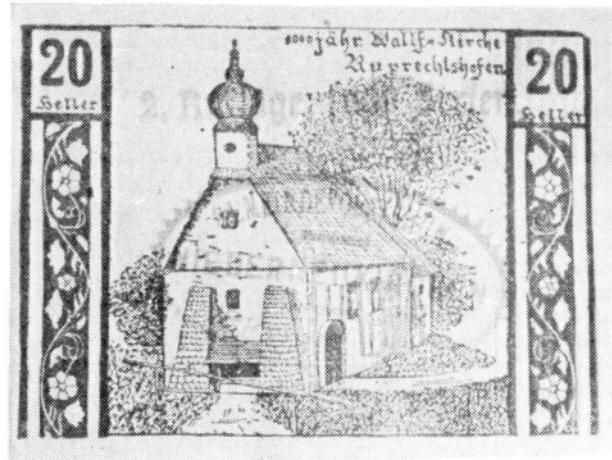
towers of the churches in this area, often the most dominating and conspicuous point of the village, which is visible for long distances. The tiny Austrian village of St. Veit im Mühlkreis issued a series of notgeld in 1920, denominated in 10, 20 and 50 Heller showing various



*St. Veit im Mühlkreis, 50 Heller*

views of the town. The 50 Heller note shows the main village street dominated by the Baroque tower of the church so typical.

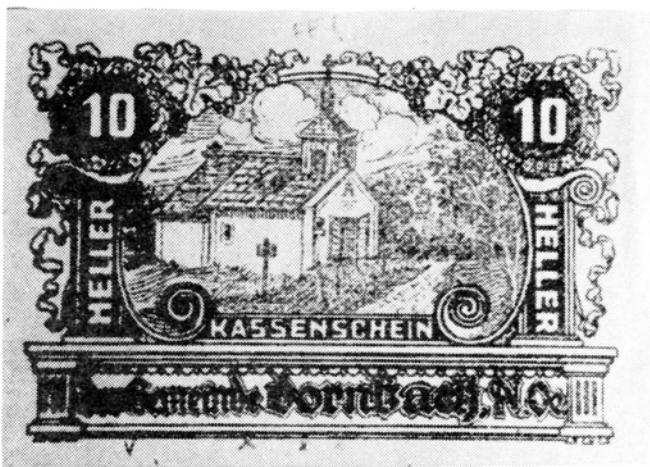
The Austrian-Bavarian countryside is dotted with other signs of religious faith such as roofed crosses (Wiesenkreuz) bearing a carved figure of Christ, set up along road sides and in open meadows. In the Austrian Province of Carinthia (Karten) are found "Bildestöcke", tall posts topped by small roofs, having several facets decorated with religious paintings by local artists. Isolated ancient chapels abound, erected to commemorate a pious memory or religious event. These are



*Niederneukirchen, 20 Heller*

also illustrated on notgeld as shown (on previous page). The little village of Niederneukirchen in Upper Austria issued several notgeld in 1921, of which the 20 Heller note represents the 1000 year old pilgrimage church of Ruprechtshofen. The note is green on the obverse and red on the reverse, and was issued with and without the village stamp.

Another example of the above is the 10 Heller notes issued by the



Dornbach, 10 Heller

Lower Austrian village of Dornbach, showing a tiny wayside chapel found so often in the countryside.

Collecting notgeld is always fascinating. Introducing other aspects into a collection, such as the history to be found lurking behind most issues can add enormously to the pleasures of this delightful hobby. As can be seen, religion, history, politics and architecture are enmeshed into the issues of notgeld. Collecting offers limitless possibilities and extends that invaluable asset, continued education to the collector.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### TIBETAN PROOFS

Some of the numismatic press have had announcements of the 1947 5 Sho of Tibet being offered in proof condition 33 years now since its original release in copper. These new offerings in gold, silver and copper were authorized by the Dalai Lama who has set up his government-in-exile in Dharmasala, Northern India. The new proofs are being struck at the Valcambi Mint in Switzerland. Each coin is struck in a diameter of 29.6mm.

While the editorial staff of the *NI BULLETIN* deplores these modern proof restrikes of older coins, we report it for you information.